

Message Text

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13

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 MC-01 OMB-01 IO-10 H-01 COME-00

EB-07 /082 W

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R 250843Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5088

DOD WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USNATO BRUSSELS 3042

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0389

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES ELLSWORTH, SHRONTZ AND LABERGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT FIGHTER: EMBASSY SYMPOSIUM

REF: THE HAGUE 0371

1. CHIEF AF SECTION MAAG WAS TOLD BY GENERAL STOKLA LATE JANUARY 24 THAT CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AND DEFENSE MINISTERS PLAN TO ARRIVE AT A PRELIMINARY DECISION BY THE END OF JANUARY.

2. HE CONFIRMED VIEWS REPORTED REFTEL THAT ANY US PUBLIC RELATIONS INITIATIVES PRIOR TO CONSORTIUM DECISION COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO DUTCH MILITARY'S DESIRE THAT YF-16 BE SELECTED. MAAG ASKED STOKLA IF HE WAS SAYING "DON'T GET IN THE WAY; WE HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL." HE LAUGHED AND SAID
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THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO PARAPHRASE HIS COMMENTS.

STOKLA WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE SYMPOSIUM CONCEPT COULD BE BENEFICIAL AT A LATER DATE, AND SUGGESTED FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON APPROPRIATE TIMING BE HELD WHEN HE RETURNS FROM BRUSSELS MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

3. DUE TO GENERAL STOKLA'S SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE AS A MEMBER OF THE CONSORTIUM, AND HIS PAST RECORD FOR RELIABLE ADVICE AND INFORMATION, EMBASSY FEELS HIS VIEWS SHOULD BE RESPECTED. IMMEDIATELY ON HIS RETURN TO THE NETHERLANDS NEXT WEEK WE WILL MEET WITH STOKLA TO OBTAIN LATEST TIMING FOR CONSORTIUM DECISION PROCESS AND TO FIRM UP SYMPOSIUM DATES INCLUDING SEC SHRONTZ'S PARTICIPATION.

4. MELIS, MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS, SUPPORTED STOKLA'S VIEW THAT USG AND EMBASSY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE. HE EMPHASIZED THE COMPETITORS (FRENCH AND SWEDES) WERE USING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD ALL DISCUSSIONS, THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS REMAINING IN BACKGROUND. HE CONSEQUENTLY RECOMMENDED THAT GENERAL DYNAMICS AND PRATT AND WHITNEY SHOULD "ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES AND DO THEIR SPADE WORK."

5. WE ENDORSE MELIS' VIEW THAT US COMPANIES PROMPTLY UNDERTAKE ACTIVE AND IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS WITH DUTCH LBAOR AND INDUSTRY AND BELIEVE WE CAN BE HELPFUL IN ARRANGING USEFUL APPOINTMENTS.

6. WITHOUT COMMITTING USG IN ANY WAY WE PLAN DISCREETLY FLOAT WITH SENIOR DUTCH OFFICIALS POSSIBILITY OF YF-16 DEMONSTRATION WITHIN THE NETHERLANDS AS PART OF PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM AND WILL REPORT ID CONCEPT FILES WITH THEM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, CONSORTIUMS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA00389
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750028-1015
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750119/aaaaareb.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 THE HAGUE 0371
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLACEMENT FIGHTER: EMBASSY SYMPOSIUM
TAGS: MASS, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006